



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

OCT 15 2018

Hope A. Smythe, Executive Officer
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
3737 Main Street, Suite 500
Riverside, California 92501-3348

Subject: Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (Basin Plan) to Revise the Compliance Schedule for the Fecal Coliform Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Shellfish Harvesting (SHEL) in Newport Bay.

Dear Ms. Smythe:

Thank you for submitting the subject request for approval. The package is consistent with Clean Water Act section 303(d) and implementing regulations.¹ The EPA hereby approves the amendment to extend the compliance schedule to the subject TMDL.

Based on our review the amendment to extend the compliance schedule to December 31, 2022, to adequately address fecal coliform for SHEL is warranted. Beyond revising the compliance schedule, the State's submission does not have other TMDL revisions requiring EPA approval. EPA appreciates the effort that the Regional Water Board has invested in developing the fecal coliform TMDL for Newport Bay.

I look forward to our continued partnership to realize water quality improvements in Newport Bay. Please call me at (415) 972-3337 if you would like to discuss further or your staff may contact Daniel Oros of the Water Quality Assessment Section at (415) 972-3583 for specific questions concerning this approval.

Sincerely,

Tomás Torres

October 15, 2018

Director, Water Division

cc: Rebecca Fitzgerald, SWRCB
Lauma Willis, Santa Ana RWQCB

¹ The Administrative Record, which includes State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 2018-0007 and Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board Resolution No. R8-2017-0019, was certified by the California Office of Administrative Law on September 24, 2018 (OAL Matter #2018-0813-02) and deemed complete by the EPA on October 1, 2018. The public process leading to the adoption and approval of the State's package is consistent with the procedural requirements of CWA section 303(d) and its implementing regulations, including 40 C.F.R. § 130.7(c)(1).